



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

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CONTACT: Stephen Hourahan
202 224-6167

CHAFEE APPLAUDS \$445 MILLION IN LIBERIAN AID

WASHINGTON, DC – The House-Senate Conference Committee working on the Iraq supplemental spending bill reported today that it has included \$445 million in aid to Liberia. The total includes \$200 million from an amendment proposed by Senator Lincoln Chafee for humanitarian needs, and \$245 million for peacekeeping.

“This is great news for the people of Liberia. I am pleased that the conferees recognized the dire situation in this part of the world. The people of our country, and in particular Rhode Island, have strong ties to the people of Liberia,” Chafee said. “The Liberian constitution is modeled after our own, and we share many of the same ideals. We have made a commitment to Liberia, and this money will go a long way to stabilize the West African region as a whole. In fact, the respected International Crisis Group has called Liberia the eye of the regional storm, a nation that has sponsored insurrections abroad to protect its interests at home.” Chafee continued.

The Chafee amendment shifted \$200 million from the Iraq supplemental spending bill to Liberia without changing the overall size of the legislation. The peacekeeping force is the UN Mission in Liberia, established by the Security Council on September 19, 2003. It is made up of troops from the Economic Community of West African States.

This money will link the U.S. with African and European allies (Britain and France in particular) in providing economic and political resources to help stabilize West Africa.

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